

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 834 without my signature.

Preventing and reducing oral disease among school-age children is an important goal. Last year, I signed legislation to require that children enrolled in kindergarten have an oral health assessment to better prevent oral health problems and contribute to a child's success in school.

While I am supportive of the author's goal, I am unable to sign this bill as it creates fiscal pressure and provisions of the bill can be more effectively done administratively. Therefore, I am directing the Department of Public Health to work with stakeholders to develop and implement efforts to simplify contracting, encourage providers to improve coordination with and access to existing dental coverage, and to continue to improve the California Children's Dental Disease Prevention Program.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger